

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is an electronic ballast for a metal halide lamp. In particular, the present invention relates to an instantaneous electronic ballast for a metal halide lamp, which allows instantaneous lightening of the lamp and can extend the life of the lamp. For this, the instantaneous electronic ballast includes a state transition circuit having a first capacitor, a first resistor and a first inductor that are sequentially serially connected between the output terminals of a power converter, for switching the output voltage of a rectifier that converts an AC power into a DC power to generate a voltage having a given frequency within a high frequency region, thus driving the metal halide lamp, and the input terminals of the metal halide lamp, for supplying a state transition current necessary to shift the metal halide lamp from a glow discharge phase to an arc discharge phase.